

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**March 19, 2013**

**SB 81 Camp Replacement Project**

Los Angeles County (County) operates the nation’s largest juvenile justice system with nearly 16,000 youth under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department, including more than 1,800 who are incarcerated in the County’s three juvenile halls and 15 probation camps. These camps were designed decades ago in an era where the institutionalization of juveniles was narrowly focused on a model of discipline-based supervision and suppression. Further, the high cost of facility construction and maintenance has left the County with dilapidated, often unsafe dormitories housing hundreds of youth in a single open-space resembling barracks. Research has established that recidivism rates among juveniles correlates directly to their placement in institutional settings and the quality of the services provided in those settings. Even without the benefit of a common definition of recidivism, that rate is estimated to be as high as 70 percent.

The County has a unique opportunity to transform the manner in which it

**- MORE -**

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLVASKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**March 19, 2013**

**PAGE 2**

endeavors to rehabilitate youth who are incarcerated in its facilities. Last year the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the development and construction of a new 120-bed facility to replace Probation Camp Vernon Kilpatrick with an overall goal to implement an integrated evidence-based rehabilitation program. The replacement of Camp Kilpatrick is partially funded by a \$28.7 million grant through Senate Bill 81 which funds county efforts to design, construct, or renovate local juvenile facilities. The Board authorized the allocation of an additional \$12.4 million in County funds to meet the grant's local matching requirement for a total project construction budget of \$41.15 million. The earliest date for completion of the project is estimated to be 2017.

The Camp Kilpatrick Replacement Project is intended to reflect a more rehabilitative, evidence-based approach to juvenile incarceration similar to programs developed by the Missouri Division of Youth Services (MDYS), the Santa Clara County Probation Department, and Washington, D.C.'s Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). The MDYS program, known commonly as the "Missouri Model", has resulted in one of the lowest rates of recidivism in the country. In 2010, the Missouri State Department of Social Services reported that 16 percent of incarcerated youth recidivated within the year following their detention as compared with a national recidivism rate of 67 percent. This concept embraces small group settings, high-quality education, relational approach to supervision, and an integrated group treatment model as a means of making a lasting impact to enable youth to effectively transition back to their communities.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**March 19, 2013**  
**PAGE 3**

The Probation Department, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Department of Public Works and a team of project advocates and researchers have been working to develop the program space and scoping documents required to move forward with the reconstruction of Camp Kilpatrick. As a result of this collaboration and research into the best practices associated with the Missouri Model, a number of project components have been recommended that would change the scope of the original project design and include a new kitchen, multipurpose gym, additional school space, and the design of smaller pods in the four cottages that will house the youth resident in the facility. The estimated cost of these changes is approximately \$7.4 million. This amount does not include additional costs associated with the construction of the school for the new camp.

The County is poised to construct a facility that could result in a fundamental shift in how we rehabilitate youth, transform their lives, and transition them back to their communities. The inclusion of the changes to the project within the overall project scope would increase the construction budget to \$48.6 million. The source of the additional funding has not been identified by the impacted departments. By providing a compelling justification for each of the newly identified project components, and the manner in which they maintain fidelity to the Missouri Model which this project is based upon, the Board would be in a position to address the resource allocation needed to fund the project at the appropriate opportunity and assess whether the changes place us on a pathway to achieving the most desirable outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system in this County.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**March 19, 2013**  
**PAGE 4**

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, to report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days, with a compelling rationale for the inclusion of the newly identified project changes in the final scoping document for the Camp Vernon Kilpatrick Replacement Project.

###